

COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND COMMERCE

SUBCOMMITTEES:
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND THE INTERNET
HEALTH

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

BARBARA CUBIN

WYOMING—AT LARGE

April 25, 2007

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Erika Olsen
Telecommunications Access Policy Division
Wireline Competition Bureau
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Mrs. Olsen:

I am writing to express my support for the grant application that I understand will be submitted by the University of Wyoming for funding under the Federal Communication Commission's Rural Health Care Pilot Program. This effort is in partnership with the Wyoming healthcare community, involving 12 organizations seeking to increase the use of telehealth and telemedicine in Wyoming.

Wyoming is a frontier state, with just under 510,000 people living in 97,100 square miles. Like other rural populations, Wyoming's citizens continually face difficulties in accessing quality healthcare and health education. Telehealth and telemedicine can help alleviate these difficulties and mitigate the impact of the healthcare provider shortage on Wyoming.

A prerequisite for telehealth and telemedicine services is access to high speed communications. With adequate funding, Wyoming can enhance public and non-profit health care providers' access to advanced telecommunications and information services. Specifically, the pilot program could provide funding to support the construction of state or regional high speed communications networks, and services provided over those networks.

These networks will be designed to bring the benefits of innovative telehealth and telemedicine services to those areas of Wyoming where the unmet medical need is most acute. Using information technology, a single medical professional can provide quality, cost-effective services to an increased number of patients.

I respectfully request you give this application all due consideration. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Barbara Cubin
Member of Congress

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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-5004

April 12, 2007

MICHAEL ENZI
WYOMING

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Erika Olsen
Telecommunications Access Policy Division
Wireline Competition Bureau
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Erika:

The Federal Communications Commission will be evaluating an application from the Wyoming Hospital Association and other members of the Wyoming healthcare community for grant funding through the Rural Health Care Pilot Program. I urge you to give full and fair consideration to this application.

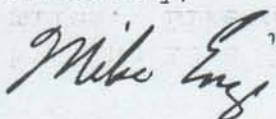
Wyoming is a frontier state, with 509,294 people living in 97,100 square miles. Like other rural populations, Wyoming's citizens continually face problems in accessing quality healthcare and health education. Telehealth has the potential to address the problems of providing services in rural areas and decrease the impact of healthcare provider shortages.

A prerequisite for telehealth services is access to high speed communications. With adequate funding, Wyoming can enhance public and non-profit healthcare providers' access to advanced telecommunications and information services. Specifically, the pilot program could provide funding to support the construction of state or regional high speed communications networks, and services provided over those networks.

These networks will be designed to bring the benefits of innovative telehealth and, in particular, telemedicine services to those areas of Wyoming where the need for those benefits is most acute. Using this technology, a single medical professional can provide services to an increased number of patients, while cutting costs.

Thank you for your attention to my letter. Please include it in the official record of the case. I look forward to learning of the decision that is reached in this matter.

Sincerely,



Michael B. Enzi
United States Senator

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-5003

April 12, 2007

Rex E. Gantenbein, Ph.D.
Director
Center for Rural Health Research and Education
University of Wyoming
Laramie, Wyoming 82071

Dr. Gantenbein:

As a strong advocate for improving rural health care in Wyoming, please consider this letter of my support for the current efforts of the Wyoming healthcare community in its application for funding under the FCC's Rural Health Care Pilot Program. With 12 organizations seeking to increase the use of telehealth and telemedicine in Wyoming, I am pleased to see such a broad based effort.

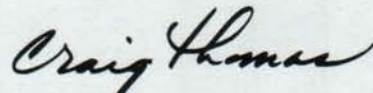
Wyoming is a frontier state, with 509,294 people living in 97,100 square miles. Like other rural populations, our state's citizens continually face unique problems in accessing quality health care and health education. Telehealth has the potential to address the problems of providing services in rural areas and decrease the impact of healthcare provider shortages.

Of course, in order to take advantage of telehealth services, access to high speed communications is necessary. With adequate funding, Wyoming can enhance public and non-profit health care providers' access to advanced telecommunications and information services. Specifically, the pilot program could provide funding to support the construction of state or regional high speed communications networks, and services provided over those networks.

I believe these networks will bring the benefits of innovative telehealth and, in particular, telemedicine services to those areas of Wyoming where the need is most acute and access most difficult. Using this technology, a single medical professional can provide services to an increased number of patients, while cutting costs.

I am pleased to offer my full support in your efforts to gain funding for this important project.

Best regards,



Craig Thomas
United States Senator

CT:jtd